# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



### **COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO**

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#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 31, 2013 NR # 13-34

## Mosquitos near Fontana and in Needles Test Positive for West Nile Virus

**San Bernardino:** The state laboratory has confirmed that mosquitos collected in the City of Needles and at Wineville Basin (county flood control property) near Fontana have tested positive for West Nile Virus. These are the first positive mosquito indicators in 2013 within the area served by the County of San Bernardino's Mosquito and Vector Control Program. The program conducts active surveillance on vector-borne diseases, and monitors and treats all known water sources where mosquito breeding may occur.

The California Department of Public Health encourages the public to participate in the West Nile Virus surveillance program by reporting dead birds or squirrels to the State West Nile Virus toll-free hotline at (877) WNV-BIRD, or online at <a href="https://www.westnile.ca.gov">www.westnile.ca.gov</a>.

Mosquitoes lay their eggs in unmaintained green pools and can fly up to 1.5 miles per hour, potentially transmitting the virus and impacting entire neighborhoods. Property owners with pools are encouraged to keep them clean. Please report green pools and other sources of mosquito breeding to the County of San Bernardino's Mosquito and Vector Control Program at (800) 442-2283.

San Bernardino County residents can protect themselves and their families from West Nile Virus by taking these precautions:

- Drain or Dump Remove all standing water around your property where mosquitos lay eggs such as birdbaths, green swimming pools, ponds, old tires, buckets, clogged gutters, or even puddles from leaky sprinklers.
- **Dawn and Dusk** Avoid spending time outside when mosquitos are most active.
- Dress Wear shoes, socks, and long pants and long-sleeved shirts that are loose-fitting and light-colored.
- DEET Apply insect repellent containing DEET according to manufacturer's directions.
- **Doors** Make sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or holes to prevent mosquitos from entering your home.

For more information, contact the County of San Bernardino Department of Public Health, Division of Environmental Health Services at (800) 442-2283 or visit our website at <a href="https://www.sbcounty.gov/dph/dehs">www.sbcounty.gov/dph/dehs</a>.

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